



# The **LATINAMERICANIST**

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This is the last Director's Corner that I will be authoring, as I am stepping down as Center Director on

July 15, 2019. I will be leaving UF to assume a new position - Dean of the College of Liberal Arts - at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to have worked with such a talented group of faculty, staff, and students and I'm proud of what we've been able to accomplish together these past ten years. Some of these accomplishments include: securing funding for three successful Title VI grants; hiring thirteen new faculty to consolidate world-class programs and develop new strengths in Latinx studies, crime, law and governance, and human rights and indigenous studies; supporting professional development opportunities for staff; launching a new Master's program in Sustainable Development Practice (MDP); developing new study abroad programs and a new combined degree (BA/BS and MA) in

Latin American Studies (LAS); expanding the scope and impact of the Center's outreach with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), K-12 schools, and community-based organizations; organizing regular career workshops for undergraduate and graduate students; increasing our engagement with LAS alumni; expanding joint programming with the office of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs (MCDA); and advocating in support of undocumented students.

Ultimately, the true measure of success has less to do with the quantifiable achievements and accomplishments during one's term, and more to do with the impact one has on people's lives. I hope that I leave the Center a better place than when I began my directorship in 2009. I'm confident that going forward, our faculty, staff, and students will continue to build on the Center's international reputation and visibility, and to nurture its special spirit of community and solidarity. Thanks to all of you who have made these past ten years so rewarding and memorable! Go Gators!

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# Conference Wrap-Up: Jews and the Americas

Contributed by Dr. Katalin Franciska Rac, Rae Price Library of Judaica

To host this year's 68th Annual Conference titled: "Jews and the Americas," the Center for Latin American Studies, with support from the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI grant, partnered with the Alexander Grass Chair of Jewish Studies and the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica. The cooperation between the three organizing partners and the presentations of the speakers invited from Latin America, North America, Germany, and Israel resulted in a vibrant and multidisciplinary two-day convention that focused on Jewish views of and experiences in the Americas.



*Dr. Tamar Herzog delivered the Bacardi Scholar Opening Address.*

The conference opened on the evening of Sunday, February 24, in Smathers Library's Latin American and Caribbean Collections, where a special exhibit for the conference was prepared and where the Bacardi keynote lecture took place. Later, the event continued with a tour of the Judaica Suite. Some participants returned to the library to inquire about materials assisting their research. The Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies keynote address was presented the following day. Over the course of Monday, February 25, and Tuesday, February 26, 22 papers grouped into seven thematic panels were presented by scholars from across the world. These papers offered a broad variety of topics on and methodological approaches to the history of Jews who visited and settled down in the Americas and the societies that inspired, received, and in specific historical instances antagonized them.

The presentations outlined the Spanish and British

Empires' roles in enabling and limiting Jewish mobility, upward and spatial alike. The historical journey the conference offered also took participants to the modern era that witnessed how the emerging modern nation states reframed the political and cultural frameworks into which Jews integrated. The invited scholars also investigated the dynamics of Jewish communal life throughout the centuries and the relationships Jewish congregations as well as individuals in the Americas built among each other and across the globe.

Following the great traditions of the Center's annual conferences, Bacardi scholar and guitarist Silviu Ciulei and his Maharajah Trio, joined by UF scholar Dr. Welson Tremura, played to the participants, many of whom revealed not merely interest, but genuine talent in dancing. Indeed these two days were intensive and intellectually invigorating for both presenters and organizers. The lion's share of the organization was carried out by the Center, while praises for hospitality, punctuality in keeping the schedule, the standard of scholarly discussions, and the amicable tone of the non-academic conversations running through the conference were addressed to all the partners.



*Performance by Silviu Ciulei and his Maharajah Trio.*

The author of these lines would like to use this opportunity to say thank you again for all the support provided by the Center, its staff, faculty, and especially the volunteering students. Without their excellent work, the joint effort to both enrich the growing field of Latin American Jewish studies and develop additional connections that tie it to and define its territory within Jewish studies and Latin American scholarship would not have brought the desired fruits.

# Afro-Latin American Studies: Visibility, Collaboration and Protagonism

Contributed by Dr. Tanya L. Saunders (LAS/CWSGR) & Carina Santiago (Visiting Research Scholar)

From January 18 to the 20, a renowned and experienced group of black researchers from the Americas came together at the University of Florida for a workshop. Held in Ustler Hall, the workshop was made possible through financial support from the Center for Latin American Studies Title VI grant, the Multicultural & Diversity Affairs department, UF's LGBTQ Affairs office, the Center for Gender, Sexualities and Women Studies Research, the African American Studies Program, the International Center, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and the UF College of the Arts. Dr. Tanya L. Saunders co-convened the meeting of professors, researchers and scholars from universities in the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, in order to undertake a diagnostic of the challenges and goals of Afro-Latinx/ African Diaspora Studies in the hemisphere.

The working group was also co-convened by Dr. Agustín Lao-Montes (Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (UMass)), Juliana Góes (doctoral candidate UMass), Dr. Anny Ocoró Loango (researcher, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Argentina), and Dr. Nicéa Quintino Amauro (President of the Brazilian Association of Black Researchers and Teachers, professor of chemistry at the Federal University of Uberlândia). Carina Santiago and Alexandra Cenatus (MALAS alumna) were instrumental in ensuring a smooth event.

The working group undertook a preliminary mapping of anti-racist work of Afro-Latinx, African Diaspora and Black Studies organizations in the hemisphere. This was done with the goal of creating a decentralized network of scholars in the region, and their host institutions, that could collaborate in a variety of activities.

In addition to mapping future institutional collaborations, the participants also engaged the larger academic community at UF through the public presentation of their scholarship. On Thursday, January 17, the Center for Latin American Studies hosted a guest lecture by Dr. Gladys L.

Mitchell-Walthour, entitled *Black Identity and Continuing Back Movement Activism in Brazil in an Era of Repression*. Dr. Mitchell-Walthour discussed the increasing saliency of a black racial identity in Brazil, as well as how black activists have organized around such identities including black women's grassroots organizing.

A film screening of the documentary *Maestra* was held the night of Friday, January 18. Narrated by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, the film explores the experiences of nine women who, as part of Cuba's National Literacy Campaign, helped eradicate Cuban illiteracy within a year.

The screening was followed by a discussion with Cuban psychologist Norma Guillard Limonta (one of the teachers involved in the National Literacy Campaign) and Catherine Murphy, the director and producer of the documentary.



Guests participating in a workshop as part of the event.

As the culminating event, on Sunday, January 20, Yuderkys Espinosa and Ochy Curriel gave a lecture on black feminism and decolonial activism in Latin America and the Caribbean called *Black Feminist Decolonial Thought: Notes for the 21st Century*. This was a conversation between two canonical black feminists who are widely read throughout the world, however, due to the politics of translation, are only recently being read in the United States. The lecture was a great opportunity for students to enter into a conversation with two foundational figures in decolonial feminism.

The conversation with Yuderkys and Ochy highlighted the overall energy of the workshop and the accompanying public events. It was an opportunity to bring together a group of well-known scholars throughout the hemisphere, who worked together exchanging ideas for two days, thinking through points of institutional collaborations, and sharing our work with UF's larger intellectual community.

# Borders of Belonging: Struggle and Solidarity in Mixed-Status Immigrant Families

Contributed by Erika Davis, MALAS Student

As part of the Latinx Studies Lecture Series Dr. Heide Castañeda, associate professor of anthropology at the University of South Florida, visited the University of Florida to meet with students and give a talk on her new book, *Borders of Belonging: Struggle and Solidarity in Mixed-Status Immigrant Families*. Based on years of research in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, this book explores the many and varied implications of immigration law and policy on families in which one or more members are undocumented. Due to its location between the heavily militarized border and interior checkpoints, the Rio Grande Valley provides a precarious living situation for anyone without full legal status, limiting access to resources and travel. Additionally, she finds that the construction of “illegality” of some family members affects the opportunities and access to resources for all.

According to Dr. Castañeda’s research, mixed-status families suffer reduced access to jobs, educational opportunities, medical care, and travel. Even medical care and food benefits available to those with citizen status in the family are often forgone, due to fear of accessing these resources and concerns about changing “public charge” immigration policies. Additionally, because the region is surrounded by checkpoints, travel to seek additional resources and jobs elsewhere proves dangerous. As one example of these impacts, students in these families who gain acceptance into colleges outside of the region sometimes elect to stay at the local college, recognizing



Dr. Heide Castañeda discussing her book *Borders of Belonging*.

that their families will never be able to attend their graduation elsewhere.

Castañeda observed a strong sense of unity and resistance among family members and the community, who would often pool resources and problem-solve together. This includes advocating for their children in school, strategizing collectively for medical care, mobilizing politically around immigrant rights and policies, and planning in advance for the possibility of family separation. This research brings a deeper understanding of the impact that increased interior immigration enforcement has on a growing demographic of mixed-status families in the United States.

The event was organized by Dr. Nicholas Vargas with support from the Center for Latin American Studies. A special thanks goes out to the UF Multicultural & Diversity Affairs office for providing us with a space to host the talk.

## For Your Information: UF ACRONYMS

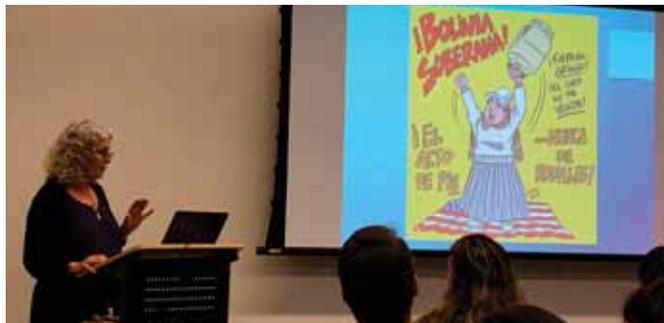
**CWSGR** Center for Women’s Studies & Gender Research  
**DCP** College of Design, Construction & Planning  
**FBLI** Florida-Brazil Linkage Institute  
**FLMNH** Florida Museum of Natural History  
**FRE** Food and Resource Economics  
**ISFS** Institute for Sustainable Food Systems  
**LABE** Latin American Business Environment  
**LAC** Latin American Collection (UF Libraries)  
**LAS** Latin American Studies

**MALAS** MA in Latin American Studies  
**MDP** Master of Sustainable Development Practice  
**SAAH** School of Art and Art History  
**SFRC** School of Forest Resources and Conservation  
**SPS** Spanish & Portuguese Studies  
**TCD** Tropical Conservation and Development  
**UFIC** UF International Center  
**URP** Urban & Regional Planning  
**WEC** Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

# The Indigenous State: Race, Politics, and Performance in Plurinational Bolivia

Contributed by William Boose, MALAS Student

On February 13, Professor Nancy Postero, University of California San Diego Department of Anthropology, presented her recent book *The Indigenous State: Race, Politics, and Performance in Plurinational Bolivia* to students and faculty from the Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of Anthropology, and the wider University of Florida community. Over fifty attendees crowded into the Multicultural and Diversity Affairs meeting room in the Reitz Union to hear Postero discuss the discourses, policies, and practices of the Evo Morales government and her analysis on how Indigenous ideas and values were taken up by the state. Following an introduction by Dr. Joel Correia and a warm welcome from those in attendance, Postero began by stating “today I am going to tell you about the fascinating economic and political project underway in Bolivia.”



Professor Postero identified two big tensions in the case of Bolivia’s Indigenous political project: decolonization and resource struggles. Postero drew from the popular Marvel movie *Black Panther*, and scholars such as Frantz Fanon and Ranajit Guha to frame Bolivia’s struggle for decolonization in an accessible and thought-provoking way. She discussed positive developments that include the centering of Indigenous peoples who had previously been marginalized in Bolivia and the establishment of a Vice Ministry of Decolonization. She also problematized the idea of decolonization in Bolivia by discussing state repression under the Morales administration in the TIPNIS case, and the sometimes-contradictory

relationship between the Morales administration and Bolivia’s Indigenous peoples. She concluded her talk by claiming that the project of the so-called Indigenous state in Bolivia has gone from indigeneity and decolonization as a site of emancipatory politics to decolonization as a tool of policing, accompanied by the discourse of “economic liberation.” This analytical framework proves useful in tracking the progression of Evo Morales’ government from election through present day.

Professor Postero transitioned to the Q+A session with a question of her own: “can decolonization be a tool for social change?” Roughly twenty attendees stayed to engage in dialogue, and their attitudes on this question—although varied—seemed to lean towards an optimistic “yes.” This included some perspectives that recognized limitations and errors in the Morales government but also sought to highlight its achievements and progress towards centering previously oppressed peoples in Bolivia. Student and faculty questions explored themes of Bolivian economics (i.e. “is Bolivia socialist?”), gender in the Bolivian government and Indigenous social movements, the upcoming presidential elections in Bolivia, and reflections on where we all fit into these issues. Postero stayed for half an hour after her presentation to engage in conversation around these themes.

The book talk was organized by Dr. Joel Correia to inaugurate the MALAS Indigenous Studies Specialization Speaker Series. The Center thanks Professor Postero for her visit and engaging book talk.

## New MALAS Specialization: Education in the Americas

Contributed by Erika Davis, MALAS Student

Through collaboration between the Center for Latin American Studies and the College of Education, a new specialization is being offered for students in the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies (MALAS) program. Beginning Fall 2019, MALAS students will be able to specialize in Education in the Americas, focusing on educational research, theory, and practices relevant to Latin America and Latinx communities in the U.S. Organized by co-coordinators, Dr. Christopher Busey (College of Education) and Dr. Mary Risner (Center for Latin American Studies), this specialization supports broad research interests among students. This includes comparative and regional analyses of educational policy, curriculum, and pedagogy across contexts ranging from K-12 education, higher education, and public education. Course offerings and supporting faculty span Latin American and Latinx studies, human development and organizational studies, world languages, language and literacy education, agricultural education and communication. This wide representation of disciplines and departments encourages a multi- and interdisciplinary approach, preparing students for careers in education, public policy, academia, and transnational organizations.

# Limits to Decolonization: Indigeneity, Territory, and Hydrocarbon Politics in the Bolivian Chaco

Contributed by Pia Molina, MALAS Student

On April 10, Dr. Penelope Anthias presented to a room full of University of Florida students and faculty from across campus on her premier book, *Limits to Decolonization*. Grisell Santiago's Advanced Spanish class from P.K. Yonge was also present at the event. Anthias began her talk by briefly mapping out the meaning of "hydrocarbon citizenship" as discussed in her book. The story focused on the 36 Guaraní Indigenous communities located in the ancestral territory of the Bolivian Chaco; a gas-rich area that Indigenous groups have long contested for control and land rights.

Anthias' presentation began with the historical context that set the scene for the "waves of dispossession" and violent erasure of the Guaraní. Anthias highlighted the 1892 Kuruyuki Massacre, a clear demonstration of the Bolivian state's active oppression of Indigenous communities.

The slave-like treatment of Indigenous communities is not an unusual history experienced by South America's lowland communities. Anthias emphasized that the struggle for territory has been a decolonial

struggle, in which land rights are meant to extend to broader goals that aim to decolonize the treatment of Indigenous communities.

The struggle for land rights, however, was further complicated by the introduction of neoliberal multiculturalism in the South American context. At first, this multicultural shift appeared to benefit Indigenous people, as it argued for their own development of cultural values and priorities. Anthias focused on how during the 1990s, development institutions began to promote legal mechanisms for the recognition of Indigenous land rights. She discussed how this was the context that allowed for the creation of Bolivia's Native Community Lands or

TCOs. Although they were brought on and overseen by organizations like the World Bank, Anthias mentioned that TCOs were not a top-down policy but rather came about from a decade-long struggle by Bolivia's lowland Indigenous movement.

This was emblematic of the agency and sustained resistance exhibited by the Indigenous people. Anthias continued her talk by focusing on how Evo Morales' 2005 election and subsequent presidency highlights the limits of decolonization. The gap between Morales' promise to continue the struggle towards decolonization and the material manifestation of Indigenous land rights has pushed Indigenous communities to pursue an economic model that links Guaraní control of their territory to the control of gas rents, thus the conception of hydrocarbon citizenship.



Dr. Penelope Anthias (front center) with P.K. Yonge's Advanced Spanish class.

In her talk, Anthias also reflected on how her own territorial practices have contributed to placing limits on the Indigenous struggle. Going forward, Anthias positions this struggle as a longer post-colonial fight for new governable

spaces as discussed in the emerging literature. Her talk concluded with one question for the audience: Can we continue to look to Indigenous peoples like the Guaraní for a way out of the colonial present, given the acute constraints they face? The audience engaged with this question and reflected on what future efforts to further indigenous rights will look like given that traditional decolonial struggles have not yielded the promises put forth by leaders like Morales.

Dr. Anthias' visit was organized by Dr. Joel Correia as part of the MALAS Indigenous Studies Specialization Speaker Series, with support from the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Anthropology.

# Women Leading Change: Human Rights and Environmental Justice in Latin America

Contributed by Dr. Joel Correia, LAS

The Center for Latin American Studies hosted *Women Leading Change: Human Rights and Environmental Justice in Latin America* from April 24-26. The workshop focused on the experiences of Afro-descendant and Indigenous leaders from Buenaventura, Colombia and Sarayaku, Ecuador along with a Paraguayan human rights lawyer, who are driving struggles for socio-environmental justice with broad implications on rights and territory in the Americas.

The workshop opened with a public forum held in Ustler Hall where invited participants from South America shared their work and calls to action with the UF and Gainesville communities. Days two and three focused on identifying the existing strategies each group has used to mobilize for social and environmental justice with attention to developing new approaches for effective communication, strengthening collaborative research, and deepening relations between social movements, academia, and civil society.

a living being subject to rights and must be free from extractive activities. From Paraguay, Julia Cabello talked about the politics and process of adjudicating Indigenous land rights cases before the Inter-American System and the challenges of implementation after a favorable decision is made.



Group shot of invited participants and UF faculty.



Public forum with invited participants.

Workshop activities revolved around three central questions identified by the participants: *¿Qué es justicia?* (What is justice?) *¿Cómo conocemos territorio?* (How do we know territory?) *¿Derechos para que?* (Rights for what?). With these questions in mind, workshop participants discussed their respective efforts to advance justice in their own communities. Deicy Minotta and Miyela Riascos of Buenaventura shared their experiences co-organizing a peaceful protest and *paro civico* that closed Colombia's largest shipping port on the Pacific Coast for 21 days to force the state to reconcile with demands for greater Afro-Colombian rights. Hilda Santi and Yaku Viteri of Sarayaku discussed the community's struggles against oil exploration on their territories. Moreover, they shared Sarayaku's Kawsak Sacha initiative which argues that the forest is

Participants also joined by videoconference including 2018 Goldman Environmental Prize recipient Francia Marquez, Commissioner Angela Salazar of Colombia's Truth Commission, the Washington Office on Latin America Andes Region Director Gimena Sánchez-Garzoli, Ruben Kondrup from ESCR-Net, and Seánna Howard, Director of the Human Rights Advocacy Workshop for the University of Arizona's Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program. UF faculty and students, including Drs. Simone Athayde and Martha Rosero, participated in workshop activities, as did colleagues from the University of Arizona's (UA) Center for Latin American Studies, including Director Dr. Marcela Vázquez-León.

The 2019 *Women Leading Change* workshop is the first in a series of four collaborative Title VI-funded interdisciplinary working groups co-sponsored and hosted by the UF and UA Centers for Latin American Studies. The UF International Center, the Tropical Conservation and Development Program and the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research also co-sponsored the event with generous support. The workshop series intends to build our Center's strengths in human rights and socio-environmental justice with attention to Indigenous and Afro-descendant experiences while also complementing the next Center Conference: *Being on Earth* to be held in March 2020.

# Farewell to Dr. Philip J. Williams

Contributed by Patricia Alba, LAS Staff

This summer, Dr. Philip J. Williams is stepping down from his role as director of the Center for Latin American Studies to assume the position of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts – at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Williams joined the University of Florida in 1989 when he was hired as an assistant professor at the Department of Political Science and as an affiliate professor at the Center for Latin American Studies. In 1998, he became Associate Chair of Political Science and from 1999 to 2003 he directed a Rockefeller Foundation Visiting Fellows program based at the Center for Latin American Studies. In 2004, Williams became Chair of the Department of Political Science and in 2009 he became the Director of the Center for Latin American Studies.

Throughout his ten-year tenure as Center Director, Williams expanded cross-campus collaborations, working with 51 different departments and growing core and affiliate faculty numbers from 163 in 2009 to 222 in 2019. He oversaw the hiring of eleven core faculty members, including Dr. Joel Correia, Indigenous Studies specialization coordinator, and Dr. Tanya Saunders, Gender, Sexuality and Racialization specialization coordinator.

During his first year as Director, and in collaboration with the Center for African Studies, Williams helped launch the Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) program. He also oversaw the hiring of Dr. Glenn Galloway, current director of the program. “Phil has been an ardent supporter of the UF MDP Program every step of the way,” said Dr. Galloway. “As a result, the program has been strengthened and a considerable list of young professionals have benefitted directly from the generous support of the Center for Latin American Studies. I am forever grateful for Phil’s interest in and commitment to the UF MDP Program.”

As Director, Dr. Williams successfully wrote three Title VI and Foreign Language and Area Studies proposals, making the Center for Latin American Studies the only center continuously funded by Title VI since 1963. In 2015, as a result of a \$273,000 grant from the U.S. Embassy

in Panama, Williams in collaboration with MALAS alum Osvaldo Jordán implemented a project titled *Equal Justice for all in Panama: Supporting the Transition to the Accusatory System in Rural and Indigenous Communities*. In 2016, Williams oversaw the development of a new strategic plan for the Center, which outlines multiple goals including increasing faculty preeminence in research and teaching and continuing to provide outstanding interdisciplinary academic programs.

“Over my years as TCD Director and in the Center for Latin American Studies I cannot possibly count the times that Phil has generously provided key advice, guidance, direction, support, and encouragement for TCD and our activities,” said Dr. Bette Loiselle, director of the Tropical Conservation & Development program. “His knowledge of UF, his incredible relationships across campus and with

senior level administrators, and his willingness to step forward on behalf of TCD programs, faculty, and students have helped us tremendously as we pursued new initiatives and strengthened existing programs, as well as helped us bridge funding for key individuals as needed. A more recent example was Phil’s instrumental role in working with VP-Research David Norton and President Kent Fuchs to develop

our newest grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. I have learned so much from Phil over the years and I, personally, and TCD will miss him greatly!”

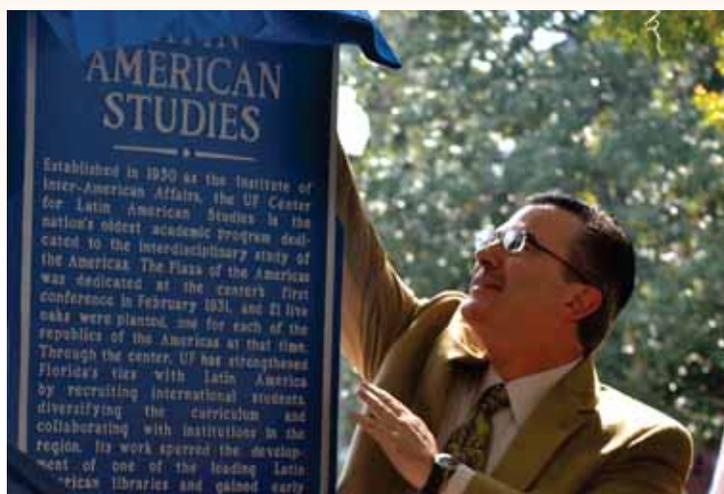
On behalf of the faculty, students, and staff at the Center for Latin American Studies, we thank Dr. Williams for his hard work and dedication to the Center and its constituents. If you would like to show your support and gratitude to Dr. Williams, he has requested that donations be made to the below Center funds.

**Center for Latin American Studies Endowment**  
<https://bit.ly/2JjVhay>

**Carol French Doughty Memorial Fund**  
<https://bit.ly/2WqvMZ2>

**Richmond F. Brown Graduate Student Fund**  
<https://bit.ly/2DMtRa6>

**MDP Program Unrestricted**  
<https://bit.ly/2LuTdzA>



Dr. Williams unveiling the Center for Latin American Studies' marker (2011).

# Resilient Landscapes: Terracing and Settlement Ecology Across the Maya Lowlands

According to a new project led by University of Florida faculty, ancient landscapes can help us design, plan, organize, and maintain systems that are resilient to cultural and ecological change. To better understand this concept, an interdisciplinary and international team of researchers will conduct a study of household, community, and landscape resilience in the Maya lowlands of southern Mexico.

Titled *Resilient Landscapes: Terracing and Settlement Ecology across the Maya Lowlands*, the project was awarded a National Science Foundation grant of \$263,353. Researchers expect to generate international collaborations with five universities from the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Leading the project are UF faculty Dr. Timothy Murtha (LAS/DCP), Dr. Angélica Almeyda Zambrano (Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management), and Dr. Eben Broadbent (SFRC). Cross-campus collaborations also include the Spatial Ecology and Conservation (SPEC) Lab and the Florida Institute for Built Environment Resilience.

As part of the project, researchers will analyze terrace systems across the Maya lowlands. A terrace is a sloped piece of land where the surface has been cut into 'steps' and the flat area is used for farming purposes. Even though the practice of terracing and land use has been researched since the 1970s, many questions remain regarding these agricultural landscapes. Technological advancements, however, such as LiDAR mapping, provide researchers the ability to document landscapes from the air and gather information on city patterns and population size, even under vegetation, at a large regional scale.

Uniquely, this project combines aircraft LiDAR with drone LiDAR on a landscape scale and marks the first time that such an integrated survey has been conducted in this archeological context. First, the team will process and analyze existing environmental LiDAR samples obtained by NASA (G-LiHT) to study forest canopy cover throughout Southern Mexico. Preliminary inspection of these samples exhibits widespread presence of Ancient Maya households and terracing beneath the forest canopy. Second, a drone-based LiDAR system: the GatorEye Unmanned Flying

Laboratory, developed by the SPEC Lab, will be used to conduct high precision survey of terraced landscapes identified in the airborne data.



*Dr. Timothy Murtha (left) conducting research in Mexico.*

LiDAR technology has proven transformative for the implementation of this project, as it offers new rapid methods for identifying and mapping terraces. Thus, by combining soil science, paleoethnobotany, remote sensing, and archaeology with existing LiDAR surveys, researchers will investigate agrarian systems across ecologies and settlement patterns, evaluating the resilience of these systems across the Maya lowlands.

“Our hope is that this work reveals important information about landscape resilience, the way we design and plan communities, and the importance of smallholders in securing long term resilience,” said Murtha. “In the process, we will also piece together a critically important landscape narrative of resilience.”

This research will significantly increase our understanding of these longstanding patterns of development so that we can make decisions that may better reflect the regional environment and ecological context of our landscapes. From an academic perspective, the project will create a platform for international collaborations between scholars and students in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, and help enhance the diversity of archeologists. Researchers from other institutions currently involved in the project include Dr. Armando Anaya Hernández (Universidad Autónoma de Campeche), Dr. Charles Golden (Brandeis University), Dr. Andrew Scherer (Brown University), and Dr. Shanti Morell-Hart (McMaster University).

## WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY!

David O. Prevatt, Civil and Coastal Engineering

Jennifer Wooten, Spanish and Portuguese Studies

# Between Gainesville and San Juan: A Title VI Collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico

Contributed by Dr. Lenny A. Ureña Valerio, LAS Staff

The new Title VI cycle has given us the opportunity to expand collaborations with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) and to support their community through curriculum and professional development, events on the Río Piedras campus, and intensive Portuguese training for students. Besides helping with capacity building and the internationalization of UPR curriculum as the university faces budgetary cuts and impacts of the economic crisis in Puerto Rico, we hope that this outreach collaboration will result in more intellectual exchanges and academic partnerships between UF and UPR faculty and students.

Early this year, the Center for Latin American Studies (LAS) sponsored the participation of Don E. Walicek (UPR Professor of English and Linguistics), an expert in Creole languages and Caribbean history, at a workshop on the “Digitizing the Americas: Exploring Cuba through Miami, Media and Technology,” hosted by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University. The Center also co-sponsored with The Ohio State University, the participation of Rosadel Santos Flores (UPR Librarian, Biblioteca José M. Lázaro) in the same event. The FIU event introduced faculty, librarians, and administrators from minority-serving institutions to best practices in digitization, digital humanities, and special collections through the exploration of Cuban sources.

With the collaboration of UPR History Department and the Centro de Investigaciones Históricas, LAS organized the visit at UPR of Kirsten Weld (John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University) on March 28-29. Weld gave a public talk on “Archive Wars: Memory, Mobilization, and Justice in Postwar Guatemala” and a workshop on “Legacies of the Spanish Civil War in Latin America.” These events were recorded and will be available to the public on the Center’s YouTube channel. LAS also helped the UF Center for European Studies to organize the visit of Enzo Traverso (Susan and Barton Winokur Professor in the Humanities at Cornell University) who visited UPR in early May to give a public talk on “The Locomotive of History: Rethinking Revolution in Modern Europe” and a panel discussion on “Postfacism: The New European Right in Historical Perspective” with Carlos Pabón (UPR History) and Marcelo Luzzi (UPR History).

This spring semester, Professor Lillian Guerra (UF History/LAS) taught a mini-course on “The Cuban Revolution from

Within” at UPR Río Piedras campus. The one-credit course, co-sponsored by New York University, met for fifteen hours at the end of April and beginning of May and enrolled four graduate students and two advanced undergraduate students. According to Lillian Guerra, “The opportunity to teach a graduate seminar on the Cuban Revolution at the University of Puerto Rico was one I could not miss! Because we have a small program of current doctoral students specializing in the Caribbean, such a specialized course on UF’s campus would be next to impossible. Teaching it here [in Puerto Rico] provides a rich and extraordinary change of perspective on this history for all involved, myself included, since the Cuban Revolution had a direct impact on virtually every aspect of Puerto Rico’s political and cultural life since 1959.”



Dr. Lillian Guerra (front, second from right) with UPR Río Piedras students.

She recommended expanding the collaboration to include UF students in future UPR mini-courses so they can be immersed in the culture and have the chance to discuss English and Spanish-language sources with Puerto Rican peers in a Caribbean context. The UPR students who participated in the course enjoyed Guerra’s course, the variety of sources she exposed students to and the quality of her lectures and discussion sessions.

UPR students also participated in our Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship competition. Two students majoring in Portuguese and Modern Foreign Languages received FLAS funding from our Center to attend the UF in Rio de Janeiro Language and Culture program held in July/August 2019. The students will join UF students and spend six weeks in Brazil learning intermediate/advanced Portuguese skills.

For more information about the collaboration, contact Lenny A. Ureña Valerio ([lurenavalerio@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:lurenavalerio@latam.ufl.edu)).

# 2019 Florida Connected Conference

Contributed by Andrew Gallup, MALAS Student

On Saturday, March 9, educators from across the state gathered in Gainesville for the annual Florida Connected conference. Co-sponsored by all of UF's Title VI National Resource Centers, the goal of this year's conference was to increase knowledge about the regions and raise awareness of the resources available through our three centers: Africa, Europe, and Latin America. The day began with an informative introduction about global education opportunities given by Maxine Lunn, a Senior Program Officer for the Teacher Exchange Branch of the U.S. Department of State. The conference featured presentations from innovative k-12 teachers and UF faculty, a mini-workshop facilitated by Teachers for Global Classrooms alumni, and an author keynote talk by renowned children's book author Susan Hood. Conference attendees left the conference energized and better equipped to teach global citizenship. Thank you to all for helping make this conference a great success.



Breakout sessions at the Florida Connected Conference.

## Center of Latin American Studies Outreach Impact

Contributed by Andrew Gallup, MALAS Student



Teachers and administrators at Manatee Cove Elementary School in Volusia County.

Spring semester was a busy one for the Outreach team. The team grew its impact by engaging students at multicultural events on school campuses. Outreach continued its collaboration with Sanford Middle School in Seminole County and Manatee Cove Elementary in Volusia County by representing the Center for Latin American Studies at each school district's culture fair. This spring, Outreach also coordinated a special school visit, connecting the Farmworker Association of Florida (FAF) with Hawthorne Middle/High School. Nezahualcoyotl Xiuhtecutli, a Florida Farmworker research coordinator, presented on social justice and farmworkers to Carolina Currea's Nutrition and Principles of Food Preparation class. This visit was a fascinating look at a rarely illuminated issue within the Florida food system. Outreach continues to connect captivating speakers with K-12 schools around the nation through the Virtual Connections Network and provide Latin American teacher resources to interested teachers through the Traveling Suitcase Program. This semester, Outreach hosted ten virtual visits and lent 17 traveling suitcases. We look forward to strengthening our connections nationwide.

## Fieldwork Festival: 2019 Poster Competition Winners

### GRAND PRIZE

*Diversity, Physiology, and Ecosystem Services of Butterflies Across Elevational and Land Use Gradients in Post-Conflict Colombia*  
**Emily Khazan**

### 1ST PRIZE MASTERS

*Women, Community Archaeology and the Development of Tourism*  
**Amanda Brock**

### 2ND PRIZE MASTERS

*Evaluation of Swidden Fallow Potential to Increase Landscape-Level Brazil Nut*

*(Bertholletia Excelsa) Productivity in the Western Amazon*

**Eduardo Schmitz Bongiorno**

### 1ST PRIZE MDP

*Pedagogical Trekking as a Tool for Local Tourism in Tilcara, Argentina*  
**Maria Rocio del Waked**

### 2ND PRIZE MDP

*How are Indigenous Quality of Life plans Influencing Conservation and Rural Development in the Ampiyacu-Apayacu Rover Basin of Peru?*  
**Daniela Lizano**

### 1ST PRIZE PRE-DISSERTATION

*Fit to win: State Sponsored Recreation in Socialist Cuba*  
**Heather Gonyeau**

### 2ND PRIZE PRE-DISSERTATION

*Persistent Archive: Memory, Transformation, and the Continuous Work of the Rio de Janeiro Truth Commission*  
**Macarena Moraga Agurto**

### Honorable Mention

*In the Hot Seat: Summer School for Latinx Students*  
**Erika Davis**

# SPRING 19 GRADUATIONS

## Undergraduate LAS

### Minors & Certificates

**Ashley Aguiar** (Poli Sci)

**Alison Bowlby** (Poli Sci)

**Cameron Briggs Ramos**

(Anthropology)

**Madeline Cruz** (Criminology)

**Alexis Ercia** (Sociology)

**Manuel Fuentes** (Poli Sci)

**Karen Garza** (Psychology)

**Nicholas Grossi** (Int Studies)

**Meryl Kornfield** (Journalism)

**Ana Roa** (Architecture)

**Luz Robinson** (Psychology/Int Studies)

**Fanni Szemkeo** (Forest Rsc/Int

Studies)

**Omar Trujillo** (Business/Sport Mgt)

**Victoria Williamson** (Psychology)

**Christina Zaldivar** (Int Studies/

Business)

### Graduate LAS Certificates

**Carlita Fiestas-Nunez** (MDP)

**Breton Homewood** (MDP)

**Imani Jackson** (Law)

**Angela Melidosian** (MDP)

**Iliana Villegas** (Anthropology)

### MALAS Degrees

**Erika Davis**

Specialization: Latino Studies

Advisor: Nicholas Vargas

Thesis: In the Hot Seat: Summer

School for Latinx Students

**Jimmy Everett**

Specialization: Caribbean Studies

Advisor: Tanya Saunders

Thesis: Ausencia Sentimental:

Colombo-Venezuelan Affect, Diaspora, and Music in Campo de la Cruz, Colombia

**Vanessa Luna-Celino**

Specialization: TCD

Advisor: Bette Loiselle

Thesis: Does establishment of

Community Conservation Areas

lead to greater protection of existing

forest? A case study from the Andes

of Northern Peru

**Lorenzo Hamilton**

Specialization: LABE

Advisor: Brian Gendreau

Internship: Um estágio com Docg:

Superando as dificuldades da Greve

dos Caminhoneiros no Brasil an

internship with Docg: Overcoming

difficulties of Trucker Strike in Brazil

**Julia Lindberg**

Specialization: Crime, Law, &

Governance

Advisor: Philip Williams

Internship: La migración en Chile y sus

desafíos contemporáneos (2014-2018)

**Anna Rodell**

Specialization: Latino Studies

Advisor: Nicholas Vargas

Internship: Abrazando el Idioma:

Developing a Spanish Literacy

Program for Heritage Speakers in

North Florida

### MDP Degrees

**Daniel Acosta**

Specializations: African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Sarah McKune

(Environmental and Global Health /

African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: Supply

chain analysis to reduce cost and

improve availability of PPR vaccine in

Uganda

**Carlita Fiestas-Nuñez**

Specializations: LAS, TCD

Advisor: Ann Wilkie (Soil & Water

Sciences)

Capstone Field Practicum: Women

entrepreneurs in Brazil recycle used

cooking oil to produce artisanal soap,

generating income for their vulnerable

islander community

**Fiona Hogan**

Specializations: African Studies, TCD

Advisor: Brian Child (Geography /

African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum: Community

Development and Conservation: A

Case Study from Maputo Special

Reserve, Mozambique

**Breton Homewood**

Specializations: LAS, TCD, Tropical

Agriculture, Gender and Development

Advisor: Catherine Tucker

(Anthropology / LAS)

Capstone Field Practicum: From

Field to Table: Men's Participation in

Nutrition Decision-Making in Agrarian

Households of Western Honduras

**Christine Mavrck**

Specializations: TCD, Organizational

Leadership for Non-Profits

Advisor: Rick Stepp (Anthropology /

LAS)

Capstone Field Practicum: Youth

in Timor: Collaborative Curriculum

Building for International Learning

**Angela Melidosian**

Specializations: TCD, Spirituality and

Health

Advisor: Sarah McKune

(Environmental and Global Health /

African Studies)

Capstone Field Practicum:

Death: Ethical Death and Dying in

Psychosocial and Spiritual Palliative

Care in Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Dan Sarafan**

Specializations: JD, TCD

Advisor: Glenn Galloway (MDP / LAS)

Capstone Field Practicum: An

Overview of International Justice

Mission's Counter Labor Trafficking

Initiative in Cambodia

### Graduate Sustainable Development Practice Certificate

**Nana Yaa Adowaa Adu, MSc** (FYCS)

**Julia Lindberg, MALAS**

**Nancy Masood, PhD** (Political

Science)

# FACULTY NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

## Angelica Almeyda Zambrano (Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management)

**Publications:** Gutierrez, Beatriz Lopez, Angélica M. Almeyda Zambrano, Sandra L. Almeyda Zambrano, Carlos A. Quispe Gil, Stephanie Bohlman, Eduardo Avellan Arias, Guillermo Mulder et al. "An Island of Wildlife in a Human-dominated Landscape: The Last Fragment of Primary Forest on the Osa Peninsula's Golfo Dulce Coastline, Costa Rica." *PloS one* 14, no. 3 (2019): e0214390.

## Simone Athayde (LAS/Anthropology)

**Publications:** Golan, J.; S. Athayde; E. Olson; A. McAlvay. 2019. "Intellectual Property Rights and Ethnobiology: An Update on Posey's Call to Action." *Journal of Ethnobiology* 39(1):90-109  
Moreira, P. F.; S. Athayde; C. Inoue; C. Seixas; J. Gamu; and E. Viola. 2019. "Triple Target Strategy: The South-south Transnational Advocacy Network Against Peruvian Dams in the Peruvian Amazon." *Global Environmental Politics* 19 (1): 77-98.

## Eben Broadbent (LAS/SFRC)

**Publications:** Almeida, D.R.A., Broadbent, E.N., Zambrano, A.M.A., Wilkinson, B.E., Ferreira, M.E., Chazdon, R., Meli, P., Gorgens, E.B., Silva, C.A., Stark, S.C. and Valbuena, R., 2019. "Monitoring the Structure of Forest Restoration Plantations with a Drone-lidar System." *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation*, 79, pp.192-198.

## Christopher L. Busey (COE)

**Presentations:** On March 29th, affiliate faculty member Dr. Christopher L. Busey offered a seminar at the University Autonomus of Barcelona. The title of his seminar was The Paradox of Black Citizenship: Transnational Perspectives on Curriculum, Pedagogy, Educational Policy, and Theory. <http://grupsderecerca.uab.cat/gipeam/en/node/197>

## Kaira Cabañas (SAAH)

**Publications:** Kaira Cabañas published "O Rosto da Pintura" (Painting's Countenance) in the volume *Djanira: A memória de seu povo [Picturing Brazil]*, which was released in March 2019 on account of Brazilian artist Djanira da Motta e Silva's retrospective exhibition at the Museu de Arte de São Paulo. In her essay Cabañas explores the self-taught artist's paintings of labor and embodied power relations. More info at: <http://www.infoartsp.com.br/agenda/djanira-a-memoria-de-seu-povo/>

## Joel Correia (LAS)

**Publications:** "Unsettling Territory: Indigenous Mobilizations, the Territorial Turn, and the Limits of Land Rights in the Paraguay-Brazil Borderlands." *Journal of Latin American Geography* 18, no. 1 (2019): 11-37. "Soy States: Resource Politics, Violent Environments and Soybean Territorialization in Paraguay." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 46, no. 2 (2019): 316-336.

**Presentations:** Presented the paper "I get to drink clean water once a year: A Critical Environmental Justice of water, indigeneity, and colonial landscapes in the Chaco" at the 2019 American Association of Geographers Conference in Washington DC.

## Carmen Diana Deere (LAS/FRE Emerita)

**Publications:** "The 'Special Relationship' and the Challenge of Export Diversification. Cuban Exports of Fruits and Vegetables to the United States, 1900 to 1962," *Cuban Studies* 42, 2019; with Fred Royce (IFAS), "Provisioning Cuba's Private Restaurants: Linking Tourism and Agriculture," *Tourism Planning and Development*, 16, 2019; and co-authored, "Gendered Paths to Asset Accumulation? Markets, Savings and Credit in Development Countries," *Feminist Economics* 25.2, 2019.

**Other:** Gave the keynote address,

"The SDG Gender Equality Agenda and the Distribution of Land," at the Women and Gender in Development Conference, Virginia Tech, in February.

## Joan Flocks (Center for Governmental Responsibility, Levin College of Law)

**Publications:** Flocks J, Tovar JA, Economos E, Mac V, Mutic A, Peterman K, McCauley L. "Lessons Learned from Data Collection as Health Screening in Underserved Farmworker Communities." *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action* 12:93-100, 2018.

**Presentations:** "Worker Justice in the Food System," (panel) with M Pollans, J Chacon, and T Kateri Hernandez. Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2-6, 2019.

## Emily Hind (SPS)

**Publications:** "Literary Fiction Under Coloniality and the Relief of Meditation in Guadalupe Nettel's *Desupés del invierno*, Carla Faesler's *Formol* and Laía Jufresa's 'La pierna era nuestro altar.'" *Disability and the Global South*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (2019), pp. 1677-1694. "Contemplation as Resistance to Ageism, and Its Historical Context: Mexican Writers Carmen Boullosa, Guadalupe Nettel, and María Rivera." *Life Writing*, Vol 16, No. 1 (2019) pp. 11-24.

## Karen Kainer (LAS/SFRC)

**Publications:** Kainer, K.A., C. López Binnqüist, J.L. Dain, B. Contreras Jaimes, P. Negreros Castillo, R. Gonzalez Basulto, E.A. Ellis, H.H. Covert, R. López Rodríguez, I.U. Hernández Gómez, F. Melchor Contreras. "Leading by Listening, Learning by Doing: Modeling Democratic Approaches to Conservation Leadership in Graduate Education." *Journal of Environmental Studies & Science* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13412->

019-00542-3 Kainer, K.A., L.H.O. Wadt and C.L. Staudhammer. "The Evolving Role of *Bertholletia excelsa* in Amazonia: Contributing to Local Livelihoods and Forest Conservation." *Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente* 48:477-497. (2018). DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5380/dma.v48i0.58972>  
**Other:** Visiting Professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (Dec 2018); included a short course on Community Forest Management.

### **Paul Losch (LACC)**

**Publications:** Lookabaugh, Lara, Paul S. Losch and Richard F. Phillips. "Over One Hundred Years of Collecting Latin Americana and Caribbeana at the University of Florida." *Latin American Collection Concepts: Essays on Libraries, Collaborations and New Approaches*, edited by Gayle A. Williams and Jana L. Krentz. McFarland, 2019, pp. 87-98.

### **Crystal Marull (SPS)**

**Presentations:** Crystal Marull and Brenda Such (COIP) gave a talk titled "Overcoming the Challenges of Online Language Learning," at the Florida Online Innovation Summit, on March 7 in Orlando, FL. Crystal Marull, Patricia González Darriba and Benjamin Kinsella (non-UF colleagues) gave a talk titled "Heritage Student Perceptions of Heritage Spanish Instructors" at the 6th National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language, on February 22 in McAllen, TX. Crystal Marull gave a talk titled "Telecollaboration in the Online Language Classroom" at the Florida Distance Learning Association Conference: Venture Higher: Expanding the Possibilities of Distance Learning on January 30th in Altamonte Springs, FL.

### **Susan Paulson (LAS)**

**Publications:** "Pluriversal Learning: Pathways Toward a World of Many Worlds." *Nordia Geographical Publications Yearbook* 2018. 47: 5, 85-109.

### **Francis Putz (Biology)**

**Publications:** The benefits of liana (woody climber) cutting on future (mahogany) crop trees in Belize was the subject of a paper published in *Forest Ecology and Management* by UF student Dan Mills along with Michael Andreu and Stephanie Bohlman from the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and Jack Putz from Biology. In a recently published paper in *Forest Ecology and Management*, Edward Ellis and Sebastian Palmas, UF Alums, along with Jack Putz from Biology and other collaborators, the carbon emissions reductions from reduced-impact logging were reported for community forests on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

### **Maria Rogal (SAAH)**

**Publications:** Hernandez, Gaby, Rogal, Maria, and Sánchez, Raúl. "Transforming Design: Indigeneity and Mestizaje in Latin America." In Book of *DRS2018 Conversations: Catalyst*, edited by Sharon Prendeville, Abigail Durrant, Nora O'Murchú and Keelin Leahy. London: Design Research Society, 2019. <https://www.scribd.com/document/397997585/DRS2018-Conversations>.

**Presentations:** Maria Rogal presented her research, "Design as a Horizontal Practice," at the meeting of the international research network Theorization of the Horizontal Creation of Knowledge on January 30 at the Maria Sibylla Merian Center for Advanced Latin American Studies (CALAS), University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

### **Sadie Ryan (Geography)**

**Publications:** Ryan, S.J., Lippi, C.A., Nightingale, R., Hamerlinck, G., Borbor-Cordova, M.J., Cruz B, M., Ortega, F., Leon, R., Waggoner, E., Stewart-Ibarra, A.M. 2019. "Socio-Ecological Factors Associated with Dengue Risk and *Aedes aegypti* Presence in the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador." *Int. J. Env. Res in Public Health (IJERPH)* 16(5): 682 Jaramillo-Ochoa, R., Sippy, R., Farrell,

D.F., Cueva-Aponte, C., Beltrán-Ayala, E., Gonzaga, J.L., Ordoñez-León, T., Quintana, F.A., Ryan, S.J., Stewart-Ibarra, A.M. 2019. "Political Instability in Venezuela Threatens Local Elimination of Malaria: Recent Resurgence of Cases in the Ecuador-Peru Border Region." *EID* 25(4) Ryan, S.J., Carlson, C.J., Mordecai, E.A., Johnson, L.R. 2019. "Global Expansion and Redistribution of *Aedes*-borne Virus Transmission Risk with Climate Change." *PLOS Negl Trop Dis.* 13(3): e0007213.

### **Maya Stanfield-Mazzi (SAAH)**

**Presentations:** Maya Stanfield-Mazzi presented the paper "Supernatural Kinesis: Cherubim in an Andean Tapestry" at the College Art Association Annual Conference in New York in February 2019.

### **John Richard Stepp (LAS/Anthropology)**

**Publications:** John Richard Stepp published a book *Ethnoecology and Medicinal Plants of the Highland Maya (Springer Nature)* in December 2018.

### **Nicholas Vargas (LAS/Sociology)**

**Presentations:** Nicholas Vargas gave a talk, titled "Are Latinx Becoming White?" at Mississippi State University's 'Race in America Lecture Series.' (February 2019).

### **Robert Walker (LAS/Geography)**

**Publications:** Walker, R., et al. 2019 "Discipline and Develop: Destruction of the Brazil Nut Forest in the Lower Amazon Basin." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers.* 109(1): 242-265. Walker, R. et al. P. 2018. "Science in Support of Amazonian Conservation in the 21st Century: The Case of Brazil." *Biotropica* 50(6): 850-858. Walker, R. 2019. "Amazon Deforestation, Already Rising, may Spike Under Bolsonaro." *The Conversation.* Walker, R. 2019. "Amazon Deforestation may Accelerate Under Bolsonaro." *The Gainesville Sun.* January 18, 2019.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Michael Handelsman (LAS 1973)** retired as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus from the University of Tennessee after 42 years as a faculty member in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures. In 2017-18, she was named Macebearer and is finishing a book titled *Representaciones de lo afro en Ecuador y su recepción. Encuentros y desencuentros en tensión*.

**Maja Jeranko (MALAS 2017)** is pursuing a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill with a graduate certificate in Participatory Action Research.

### Alumni Spotlight: Anabell Iglesias (LAS 2010)

#### Can you tell us about your current position and how it relates to your LAS certificate?

I lead Communications at the Inter-American Development Bank and came on board earlier this year. While a shift from my usual corporate world, I'm quite enjoying how I am able to bring together threads from studies and past experiences in new ways. I am part of the Knowledge, Innovations, and Communications sector, which does storytelling and manages reputation on the Bank's programming and engages in scaling knowledge and innovation solutions for development.

I worked on my LAS certificate together with my master's in communications, so my current position is the perfect expression of what I thought a career could look like when I was a student.

#### What motivated you to pursue a certificate in Latin American Studies?

Since the beginning of my career, I knew I wanted

Her dissertation works in Ecuador builds on the project she started as a MALAS Student at UF.

**Steven Reed Minegar (MALAS 2010)** is a Senior Team Client Manager for Brazil in the Premium Services Organization at Gartner, a technology research and advisory company. He is responsible for aligning Gartner resources to Chief Information Officers and IT leaders from a variety of industries to help advance their technology initiatives and realize value from their investment with Gartner.

**Grace Melissa Palacios Chavez (LAS 2018)** is working at ICRAF in Lima, translating her dissertation into Spanish, and publishing a story tale for teenagers on agricultural topics in Peru, titled *El Mágico Paraíso del Sol*.



to combine my interest in it being global with my purpose to have an impact in Latin America.

Both my career and academic decisions have reflected this duality.

I came to UF as a Fulbright Fellow in the Fall of 2008 and was enrolled at the College of Journalism and Communications (CJC), where I would pursue a Masters in Mass Communications within the international/intercultural track. I didn't know about the Center for Latin American Studies until some courses I was interested in were canceled and I became aware I could look for classes outside my college. Needless to say, I felt I had stumbled upon a gem when I found UF-LAS! Every week I looked forward to my "Latinos in the U.S." class with Prof. Efraín Barradas and took elements from it to inform

in new ways what I was learning at CJC. For example, I would reflect on the effects of international broadcasting and new media in Latin America, the exchange between a country and its diaspora and how culture would travel, etc.

As I continued selecting my classes, I would focus my research on applications for Latin America, which placed me on track to complete the LAS Certificate. Even my internships (Discovery Networks Latin America/ U.S. Hispanic, World Partnerships/U.S. Department of State, and Kimberly-Clark Latin America) had a regional focus.

### **What aspect of your career have you enjoyed the most?**

I'm a lifelong learner and I have been very fortunate to work in organizations that place capability building as one of their priorities. This means that coupled with corporate mandates of people development, my desire to learn and my constant curiosity have found fertile ground. Additionally, I have been able to truly work across borders which has allowed for enriching experiences. The world seems big at first when you start an international career. However, as you focus on people and delivering value, you begin to understand how we're very much the same at the core. My marketing and communications career has provided an avenue to truly explore this wonderful world we live in and offer solutions to challenges through my work - in a corporate setting and now in international development.

I also love that I have been able to be part of both Global and Regional teams. There's a special kind of energy when you sit at the table and can craft strategies with global peers, then be able to turn around and go deep within your own region and engage there as well.

### **How did your certificate and/or the Center help you prepare for your career?**

When I came to UF, I thought I had the basics pretty much figured out on the cultural front and my studies would be largely shaped by new insights on communications and media. This was because it was my second masters, as I had already completed an MBA at the Thunderbird School of International Management, which has a strong focus on cultural dexterity.



What UF-LAS did was give me the gift of a whole new level of perspective in my own personal and cultural experiences that would ultimately result in being able to deliver a larger impact. You see, I grew up in a bicultural environment (El Salvador/ United States) in Latin America and called myself a "cultural translator". However, the class with Prof. Barradas opened my mind to a new set of cultural situations - including where I landed personally. It gave words and definitions to situations and past experiences. What Thunderbird had done to unleash my passion in international diversity, UF-LAS did to unleash a personal understanding and view on topics such as migration, hybrid cultures, diaspora impact, etc. As my career responsibilities grew and I became a leader who would participate in bigger conversations, I appreciated the fact I was able to pull from what I had learned at my schools. I think this was the most evident for me when I was part of steering committees for Diversity & Inclusion and for Sustainability at both the Latin America and Global levels.

### **What advice do you have for current students at the Center for Latin American Studies?**

Reach across disciplines and colleges to make your future impact in Latin America stronger. Your regional understanding will give you relevance and empathy, and those additional skills will make your solutions stronger and sharper. And above all, never stop learning so we can all help build a brighter future for Latin America.

# Thanks to Our Donors

*The Center for Latin American Studies would like to express its gratitude for the generosity of those who have contributed to the Center's funds and endowments.*

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Mrs. Margaret Boonstra

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# A Special Thanks: Gator Nation Giving Day

On February 26, the University of Florida held a 24-hour fundraising event called *Stand Up & Holler: Gator Nation Giving Day*. This marks the first time UF undertook such a fundraising campaign. In total, the university received 11,535 gifts from 50 states, which makes the campaign one of the most successful ones for a public university.

The Center participated in this fundraising initiative, calling on our alumni, students, faculty, staff and Center friends to come together in support of the Center and its programs. We are happy to announce that in a 24-hour period, the Center raised \$3,976 distributed across five funds. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this fundraiser. Your gifts help strengthen our academic programs by funding scholarships and enhancing the quality of research, teaching and outreach in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino studies at the University of Florida.



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The Center for Latin American Studies would love to hear from our alumni! Please complete our Alumni Update Form online at: [www.latam.ufl.edu/alumni/alumni-update-form](http://www.latam.ufl.edu/alumni/alumni-update-form) and let us know what you're up to! If space permits, we will include your update on our next newsletter.



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